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delicate neuroptera, with finely fringed wings and slender feelers, create doubts as to whether they are not really allies of the clothes moth, so close is the resemblance.

Thus the student is constantly led astray by the wanton freaks Nature plays, and becomes sceptical as regards the truth of a natural system, though there is one to be discovered; and at last disgusted with the stiff and arbitrary systems of our books,—a disgust we confess most wholesome, if it only lead him into a closer communion with nature. The sooner one leaves those maternal apron-strings,—books,—and learns to identify himself with nature, and thus goes out of himself to affiliate with the spirit of the scene or object before him,—or, in other words, cultivates habits of the closest observation and most patient reflection,—be he painter or poet, philosopher or an insect-hunter of low degree, he will gain an intellectual strength and power of interpreting nature, that is the gift of true genius.

THE LAND SNAILS OF NEW ENGLAND.

BY EDWARD S. MORSE.

(Continued from page 188.)

THE snails thus far described represent a natural group having, generally, a stout, heavy shell, and usually a reflected lip to the aperture. The jaw is heavily ribbed, and the teeth are short, and, on the extreme border of the membrane, serrated. The jaw and teeth of *Helix albolabris*, figured in the first number of the NATURALIST, represents well like characters of the group. The species now to be considered have smooth or polished shells, the

lip simple or sharp, and the teeth are claw-shaped; the jaw being devoid of ribs, having, however, a central projection, as shown in Fig. 19, — (jaw of *Helix inornata*.)

VITRINA LIMPIDA Gould. (Fig. 20.) Shell globular, very thin and fragile, transparent and shining. Whorls two to three, the last, or body whorl, very large and expanded; no umbilicus; diameter nearly one-fourth of an inch. Animal greyish, or nearly black, and large compared to the size of the shell. The mantle extends from the aperture of the shell covering the back of the animal to the base of the tentacles, a portion extending backward covering the spire. The animal is always very moist, and appears covered with water.

This species is probably carnivorous in its habits, as in confinement it has been noticed to feed on dead and even live earth-worms, while vegetable food has been rejected. It has been found in northern Vermont, in northern Maine, and near Portland, Me., quite abundant. Outside of the limits of New England this species occurs in the North-western Territory, and the northern parts of the United States bordering on Canada. It is generally found in open ground or low underbrush in damp places.

HELIX INORNATA Say. (Figs. 21, 22.) Shell depressed, yellowish horn-color, smooth and shining. Whorls five; lip simple and sharp, the lower part reaching to the umbilicus, which is small. Within the lip there is a thick, white shelly deposit which tends to strengthen the fragile aperture. Diameter of shell less than three-fourths of an inch. Animal bluish black, disk whitish. At the termination of the tail there is a gland from which the mucus pours freely when the animal is in motion.

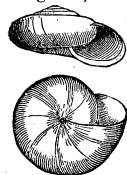
Fig. 19.



Fig. 20.



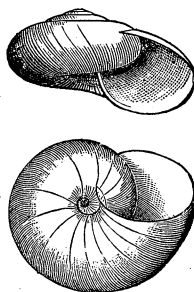
Figs. 21, 22.



This shell is recorded as being found in Vermont by Professor Adams, though it cannot properly be regarded as a New England species. It is common at the West.

HELIX FULIGINOSIS Binney. (Figs. 23, 24.) Shell thin, flattened above, nearly chestnut-color, sometimes a greenish horn-color. Whorls four and a half; last whorl very large, suture slightly indicated. Aperture large, nearly circular, within pearly. Lip simple, brittle, slightly thickened within by a testaceous deposit. Umbilicus not large. Diameter an inch or more. Animal blackish, or bluish black. On the tail there is a slit from which the mucus pours freely. This shell resembles somewhat that of *Helix inornata*, but differs in being much larger, and always having one whorl less. The umbilicus is larger, and the aperture is more circular.

Figs. 23, 24.



This species occurs in nearly all the States east of the Rocky Mountains. It is extremely rare in New England, having been found only in the extreme western limits.

Of the species thus far described in these papers, only three of them can be considered as really common in New England, namely, *Helix albolabris*, *monodon*, and *alternata*. The others are rarely to be met with. It is difficult for the collector to obtain more than ten or twelve specimens of the larger species in a day's ramble, though at the West they may be found by hundreds. The cause of this disparity in numbers is attributed to the abundance of lime-rock at the West; this rock favoring the multiplication of shell-bearing mollusks, while in New England, granitic formations prevail, and the soil from such rocks retards the increase of these animals.—*To be continued.*